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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Junichi TAMAMOTO et al.  
Serial No.: 10/772,386  
Filed: February 6, 2004  
Title: SHEET HANDLING APPARATUS  
Group: 3654  
Examiner: KUMAR, Rakesh  
Confirmation No.: 6779

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98**

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

December 22, 2005

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a Communication from a Foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign (European) application and copies of the non-U.S. Patent documents listed in the attached Form PTO/SB/08A for the Examiner's consideration.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application, but prior to a Final Office Action or issuance of a Notice of Allowance, or issuance of any other action closing prosecution on the merits in the above-identified application. Accordingly, the fee of \$180.00 is enclosed herewith.

12/23/2005 HALI11 00000152 10772386

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The following Statement is made under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the present submission of the enclosed documents. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed documents, during examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 Case: 500.43486X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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